

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A sign comprising a surface having a perimeter and an illuminated design coupled thereto, said sign ~~illuminated design~~ comprising:
- a first electrode formed on said sign surface, said first electrode having a first lead that extends to a perimeter of said sign surface ~~the surface of the sign~~;
 - a dielectric layer;
 - a luminescent layer ~~substantially aligned with said first electrode~~;
 - ~~a conductor layer substantially aligned with said luminescent layer~~;
 - a second electrode ~~formed onto said surface of said sign~~, having a second lead that extends to said perimeter of said sign surface ~~said outlining electrode being configured to transport energy to said conductor layer~~;
 - an interconnect tab portion located at said perimeter of said sign surface and supporting at least a portion of at least one of said first and second leads ~~having a pair of spaced, parallel slots extending inward from the sign perimeter to define a male end~~; and
 - a connector ~~configured to extend into the slots~~ for releasably mating with said interconnect tab portion and for providing electrical power to said first electrode and said second electrode.

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2. (Original) A sign in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said connector includes a locking pin for locking said connector to said surface of said sign.

3. (Original) A sign in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said connector includes a key pin for aligning the connector with the interconnect tab portion.

4. (Currently amended) A sign in accordance with claim 3 wherein said connector includes contacts for said first electrode and said second electrode ~~the first and second electrode~~.

5. (Currently amended) A sign in accordance with claim 4 wherein said connector includes a key positioned between said contacts for said first electrode and said second electrode ~~the first and second electrode~~ such that said connector is mountable to said interconnect tab portion in a proper alignment.

6. (Currently amended) A sign comprising a surface and an illuminated design coupled thereto, said sign illuminated design ~~sign illuminated design~~ comprising:

a first electrode formed on said sign surface, said first electrode defining a first perimeter;

a dielectric layer screen printed onto said first electrode and sign surface, said dielectric layer being substantially aligned with said first electrode and defining a dielectric perimeter, the dielectric perimeter extending beyond the first perimeter of the first electrode,

a phosphor layer formed on said dielectric layer and substantially aligned with said first electrode, the phosphor layer defining a second perimeter, the dielectric layer perimeter extending beyond the second perimeter of said phosphor layer to define an exposed dielectric layer;

a sealing layer formed on at least a portion of said exposed dielectric layer to electrically seal the dielectric layer;

a conductor layer substantially aligned with said phosphor layer and defining a third perimeter;

an outlining electrode formed onto the sealing layer and substantially circumscribing

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at least one of said second perimeter and third perimeter, said outlining electrode being configured to transport energy to said conductor layer, an interconnect tab portion having a male end and a connector for releasably mating with said interconnect tab portion and for providing electrical power to said first electrode and said outlining electrode.

7. (Original) A sign in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said connector includes a locking pin for locking said connector to said surface of said sign.

8. (Currently amended) A sign in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said connector includes a key pin for aligning the connector with said ~~the~~ interconnect tab portion.

9. (Currently amended) A sign in accordance with claim 6 wherein said connector includes contacts for said first electrode and said outlining electrode ~~the first and second electrode~~.

10. (Currently amended) A sign in accordance with claim 9 wherein said connector includes a key positioned between said contacts for said first electrode and said outlining electrode ~~the first and second electrode~~ such that said connector is mountable to said interconnect tab portion in a proper alignment.

11. (Original) A sign in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said first electrode comprises a rear electrode, said rear electrode being screen printed on said substrate as a forward image.

12. (Currently amended) A sign in accordance with Claim 6 wherein at least one of said first electrode and said outlining electrode is comprised of silver particles.

13. (Original) A sign in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said dielectric layer is comprised of barium-titanate particles, and wherein said sealing layer comprises a barrier to prevent silver migration between said first electrode and said outlining electrode.

14. (Currently amended) ~~A sign in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the interconnect tab portion has a first electrode lead and a second electrode lead disposed on the male end, and the connector has two or more electrical contacts configured to align with, and contact, the first and second electrode leads.~~

15. (Previously presented) A sign in accordance with Claim 2, wherein said interconnect tab portion has one or more locking holes spaced from the male end for receiving the locking pin.

16. (Previously presented) A sign in accordance with Claim 3, wherein said interconnect tab portion has a key slot on the male end for receiving the key pin.

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17. (New) A sign in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said interconnect tab portion is defined by a pair of spaced, parallel slots extending inward from the sign perimeter to define a male end, and said connector is configured to extend into said slots for releasably mating with said interconnect tab portion.

18. (New) A sign in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said interconnect tab portion supports at least a portion of said first lead and at least a portion of said second lead in a spaced relationship.

19. (New) A sign in accordance with Claim 6, wherein said interconnect tab portion supports at least a portion of said first electrode and at least a portion of said outlining electrode in a spaced relationship.
